

The destabilising power of memories

Miracle

MARITA DE STERCK

Ruben's grandfather Emiel is eighty-five and becoming more and more forgetful. Nuri, an introverted student, moves in to help care for him. Grandma Lea may have been dead for ten years, but that does not stop Emiel from talking to her every night. Clearing out her things triggers quite a few half-memories in him. Together with his grandson, Emiel travels to the pilgrimage site where Lea spent so much time, praying for her miracle. Some old wounds that never fully healed become more and more manifest there. Meanwhile, Ruben, who was deeply hurt by his previous girlfriend, falls for Nuri. But Nuri has her own demons from the past and won't open up to him all that easily.

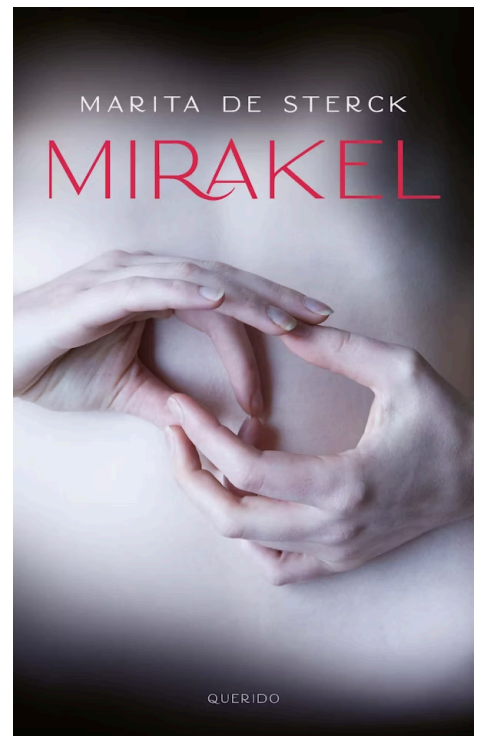
One of her best books

JAAPLEEST

Narrated from different perspectives – alternating between Ruben and Emiel, Lea and even Mother Earth – Marita de Sterck tells a story of memory and love, and the pain caused, and eased, by both. In her characteristic style, with great authenticity and a palpable love of Flemish Dutch, she intertwines folk wisdom and rituals in this tightly structured portrait of three people and their battle to come to grips with memories.

Those who like to underline beautiful sentences while reading won't be able to stop in 'Miracle'.

TROUW



AUTHOR



Marita de Sterck (b. 1955) has spent much time travelling the world as an anthropologist, searching out narratives rooted in age-old oral traditions. Recurring themes in her work include learning to love without losing oneself, the power of stories, and the often complex relationship between generations. She has a very recognizable style that plays with registers and does not shy away from direct language. *Photo © Koen Broos*

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